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February 1, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Support for the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP)

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of the Antelope Valley area, the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency is submitting this letter in support of the Department of Water Resources' South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). SDIP is a project designed to meet California's diverse water requirements, and is critical to our water supply, water quality, and environmental protection.

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), formed by a California uncoded act in 1959, operates a treated water supply and distribution system providing supplemental water from the State Water Project to approximately 25 retail water providers from Ventura County to eastern Kern County, including most of the Antelope Valley. In 1962, AVEK signed a contract with the state to assure delivery of imported water to supplement groundwater supplies, and, as one of three State Water Contractors in the Antelope Valley, has been delivering imported water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use since 1975. AVEK is the third largest among the 29 public water suppliers that contract with the State of California for water from the State Water Project. Our customer base includes Edwards Air Force Base, U.S. Borax, some area cities, many of the unincorporated communities and farms.

AVEK is aware that California is facing a critical challenge to provide a safe, reliable, high quality water supply to a rapidly rising population and economy. As you know, our state has limited water supplies and water providers must better utilize existing water resources and infrastructure. Two-thirds of our state receive water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the Delta's water delivery system must be managed in a much more efficient manner.

February 1, 2006
Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources

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The 2000 CalFed Bay-Delta Program, initiated to manage the Bay-Delta, was supported by environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step towards the goal of implementing long-term planning for the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. SDIP will be responsible and balanced to better utilize and integrate existing water management infrastructure in the Bay-Delta. SDIP will improve California's water supply reliability, water quality and overall health of the Bay-Delta. SDIP will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, improve water circulation and quality, and improve water deliveries for local farmers and the State Water Project.

AVEK stands behind using California's water wisely, and believes that it is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth. We strongly support SDIP and encourage advancement of this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



Russell E. Fuller
General Manager

cc: Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish & Game
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Frank Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Susan Kennedy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor